

107TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5158

To establish a grant and fee program through the Environmental Protection Agency to encourage and promote the recycling of used computers and to promote the development of a national infrastructure for the recycling of used computers, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 18, 2002

Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. FILNER, Mrs. THURMAN, Ms. MCKINNEY, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To establish a grant and fee program through the Environmental Protection Agency to encourage and promote the recycling of used computers and to promote the development of a national infrastructure for the recycling of used computers, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Computer Hazardous  
5 Waste Infrastructure Program Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 For purposes of this Act—

3 (1) the term “Administrator” means the Ad-  
4 ministrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

5 (2) the term “cathode ray tube” means a vacu-  
6 um tube or picture tube used to convert an elec-  
7 tronic signal into a visual image;

8 (3) the term “central processing unit” includes  
9 a case and all of its contents, such as the primary  
10 printed circuit board and its components, additional  
11 printed circuit boards, one or more disc drives, a  
12 transformer, interior wire, and a power cord;

13 (4) the term “computer” means an electronic,  
14 magnetic, optical, electrochemical, or other high  
15 speed data processing device performing logical,  
16 arithmetic, or storage functions, and may include  
17 both a central processing unit and a monitor, but  
18 such term does not include an automated typewriter  
19 or typesetter, a portable hand held calculator, or  
20 other similar device;

21 (5) the term “hazardous waste” has the mean-  
22 ing given that term in section 1004(5) of the Solid  
23 Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6903); and

24 (6) the term “monitor” means a separate visual  
25 display component of a computer, whether sold sepa-  
26 rately or together with a central processing unit, and

1 includes a cathode ray tube or liquid crystal display,  
2 its case, interior wires and circuitry, cable to the  
3 central processing unit, and power cord.

4 **SEC. 3. FEE.**

5 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Effective 180 days after the  
6 transmittal to the Congress of the results of the study con-  
7 ducted under section 6(a), the Administrator shall require  
8 that a fee be assessed on the sale (including a sale through  
9 the Internet) to an end-user of any computer, monitor,  
10 or other electronic device designated by the Administrator  
11 under subsection (c). The Administrator shall establish  
12 procedures for the collection of such fee.

13 (b) FEE AMOUNT.—The amount of the fee required  
14 under subsection (a) shall—

15 (1) be an amount sufficient to cover the costs  
16 of carrying out section 4(a);

17 (2) be uniform—

18 (A) for each computer with a central proc-  
19 essing unit and monitor integrated in a single  
20 device;

21 (B) for each central processing unit;

22 (C) for each monitor; and

23 (D) for each class of other devices des-  
24 ignated by the Administrator under subsection  
25 (c);

1           (3) not exceed \$10 per computer, monitor, or  
2       other designated device; and

3           (4) be clearly indicated on the label, external  
4       packing materials, or sales receipt of the computer,  
5       monitor, or device.

6       (c) DESIGNATION OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES.—The  
7       Administrator may designate additional electronic devices  
8       to which the fee under subsection (a) shall apply if those  
9       electronic devices—

10           (1) contain a significant amount of material  
11       that, when disposed of, would be hazardous waste;  
12       and

13           (2) include one or more liquid crystal displays,  
14       cathode ray tubes, or circuit boards.

15       **SEC. 4. GRANTS.**

16       (a) USES OF FEE AMOUNTS.—Amounts collected  
17       under section 3 shall be used, to the extent provided in  
18       advance in appropriations Acts, by the Administrator  
19       for—

20           (1) covering the costs of administration of this  
21       Act; and

22           (2) making grants under subsection (b).

23       Not more than 10 percent of the funds available pursuant  
24       to this Act for any fiscal year may be used for costs de-  
25       scribed in paragraph (1).

1 (b) GRANT PURPOSES.—The Administrator shall  
2 make grants with funds collected under section 3 to indi-  
3 viduals or organizations for—

4 (1) collecting or processing used computers,  
5 monitors, or other designated devices for recycling  
6 purposes;

7 (2) reusing or reselling such computers, mon-  
8 itors, or devices, or components thereof; and

9 (3) extracting and using, or selling for reuse,  
10 raw materials from such computers, monitors, or de-  
11 vices.

12 (c) ELIGIBILITY.—An individual or organization shall  
13 be eligible for a grant under subsection (b) only if the indi-  
14 vidual or organization provides assurances to the satisfac-  
15 tion of the Administrator that it will carry out the grant  
16 purposes in a manner that complies with all applicable  
17 Federal and State environmental and health laws.

18 (d) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In selecting proposals for  
19 grants under subsection (b), the Administrator shall  
20 consider—

21 (1) the quantity of used computers, monitors,  
22 or other designated devices that will be diverted  
23 from landfills;

24 (2) the estimated cost per unit of the collection,  
25 processing, reuse, or sale proposed;

1           (3) the availability of, and potential for, mar-  
2       kets for recycled materials;

3           (4) the degree to which the proposal mitigates  
4       or avoids harmful environmental or health effects;  
5       and

6           (5) the degree to which the proposal employs  
7       innovative recycling technologies.

8       The Administrator shall ensure that grants are provided  
9       to a geographically diverse group of recipients.

10   **SEC. 5. CONSULTATION.**

11       In carrying out this Act, the Administrator shall con-  
12       sult with representatives of the computer manufacturing,  
13       retail, and recycling industries, waste management profes-  
14       sionals, environmental and consumer groups, and other  
15       appropriate individuals and organizations.

16   **SEC. 6. STUDY AND REPORTS.**

17       (a) STUDY.—Not later than 6 months after the date  
18       of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall  
19       transmit to the Congress the results of a study that—

20           (1) identifies waste materials in used computers  
21       that may be hazardous to human health or the envi-  
22       ronment;

23           (2) estimates the quantities of such materials  
24       that exist or will exist in the future, including a sep-

1        arate estimate of the quantities of such materials  
2        that are exported from the United States;

3            (3) estimates the costs of transporting, col-  
4        lecting, and processing computers, monitors, and  
5        other designated devices;

6            (4) describes current management of such  
7        waste materials;

8            (5) makes recommendations for the manage-  
9        ment of electronic products containing such waste  
10       materials at the end of their useful lives; and

11           (6) estimates the demand for materials from re-  
12       cycled computers, and make recommendations for  
13       increasing the markets for such materials.

14        (b) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
15       of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for  
16       4 additional years, the Administrator shall transmit to the  
17       Congress a report on the status of computer recycling.  
18       Such report shall include a description of the amount of  
19       fees collected under section 3, and a description of the  
20       amount of administrative costs paid for and grants made  
21       under section 4 with funds collected through such fees.

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